

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7223

USERDA GERMANTOWN

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 3388

E.O. 11652 NA

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, GT

SUBJ: SHIPPING CONTAINER FOR COBALT 60 SOURCE

REF: IAEA VIENNA 5338

1. EMBOFF CALLED ON ING. NOEL CARAZO, PRESIDENTE, INSTITUTO NACIONAL DE ENERGIA NUCLEAR, TERCERA AVENIDA "A" NO. 2-68, ZONEI1, GUATEMALA. CARAZO SAID CONTAINER PRESENTLY STORED IN GUATEMALAN CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE IN GUATEMALA CITY. NO FEES NEED BE PAID BUT PAPERWORK FOR REEXPORT IS CONSIDERABLE AND CARAZO SAID IT WILL BE "ONE OR TWO WEEKS" BEFORE CONTAINER IS ON ITS WAY BACK TO UK. HE HAS RECEIVED BILL FOR FIRSL 13 WEEKS RENTAL, THROUGH APRIL 29, AND SAYS HE WILL REPLY SHORTLY RECOGNIZING INSTITUTE'S LIABILITY. HOWEVER, HE WILL ASK UK FIRM TO ACCEPT PAYMENT IN INSTALLMENTS, HOPEFULLY SPREAD OUT OVER 12 TO 18 MONTHS, BECAUSE ONLY SOURCE

OF FUNDS WITH WHICH INSTITUTE COULD PAY BILL IS CHARGES TO USERS OF COBALT 60 SOURCE, AND CARAZO ESTIMATES IT WILL TAKE THAT LONG TO COLLECT ENOUGH BY THAT MEANS. CARAZO SAID HE CONVEYED THIS SAME INFORMATION TO HEAD LA DIVISION OF IAEA TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE OFFICE (OTEIZA) DURING LATTER'S RECENT VISIT TO GUATEMALA.

2. CARAZO SAID PART OF PROBLEM WAS THAT CONTAINER AND UNCLASSIFIED

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SOURCE WERE IN GUATEMALA FOR SOME TIME BEFORE INSTITUTE

KNEW ABOUT IT OR COULD GET THEM OUT OF CUSTOMS, BECAUSE SHIPPING DOCUMENTS SENT VIA INTERNATIONAL MAIL FROM UK NEVER ARRIVED AND CARAZO HAD TO WRITE FOR SECOND SET. IN CONSEQUENCE INSTITUTE HAD TO PAY SUBSTANTIAL STORAGE CHARGES AT PORT OF ENTRY. HE NOTED IN PASSING THAT DOCUMENTS, WHEN THEY FINALLY ARRIVED, MENTIONED "TOOLS NECESSARY FOR INSTALLATION PURPOSES" AS INCLUDED IN SHIPMENT BUT NO TOOLS WERE FOUND IN CONTAINER. HE WILL REPORT THIS WHEN HE WRITES TO HARWELL. HE ALSO PLANS TO SEND REEXPORT DOCUMENTS TO HARWELL VIA BRITISH CONSULATE TO PREVENT THEIR LOSS. EMBOFF WILL FOLLOW UP WITH CARAZO IN TWO WEEKS TO MAKE SURE CONTAINER ON ITS WAY.

3. EMBOFF TOOK OCCASION TO ASK CARAZO ABOUT GUATEMALAN NEGOTIATION OF SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT WITH IAEA, OBLIGATION WHICH IT ACQUIRED ON RATIFICATION OF NPT IN 1970. HE SAID INSTITUTE HAD RECOMMENDED GOG SIGN AGREEMENT, BUT FONOFF HAD VETOED IT ON GROUNDS "IT WOULD INCREASE GUATEMALA'S IAEA ASSESSMENT." EMBASSY WILL ATTEMPT CORRECT FONOFF'S IMPRESSION AT EARLY OPPORTUNITY. TO ASSIST IN THAT APPROACH, WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING STATUS OF SAFEGUARDS NEGOTIATIONS WITH OTHER FOUR CENTRAL AMERICAN STATES AND PANAMA.

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